APPROVED FOR RELEASE – DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART 2025 REVIEW

Coun, who had served on Saipan in 1944 after it was captured from the Japanese.

He said Mr. Devine had been told by a native woman that a white couple had been buried near Garapan Cemetery, but that Mr. Devine did not at that time connect the information with the Earhart disappearance. Mr. Goerner told a news conference that natives told of a white woman and man held captive by the Japanese in July, 1937. They said the woman died of dysentery and the man was beheaded, Mr. Goerner said.

The newsman contended that United States Naval intelligence had information about the Earhart flight that has not been disclosed.

He said that although he feels strongly that the remains are those of Miss Earhart and Mr. Noonan, "naturally we are not absolutely certain yet."

Jules Dundes, vice-president and general manager of KCBS, said: "We don't know that these are the remains of Miss Earhart and Noonan. We only suspect that they are. All of our previous investigations point to the fact that they were on the island."

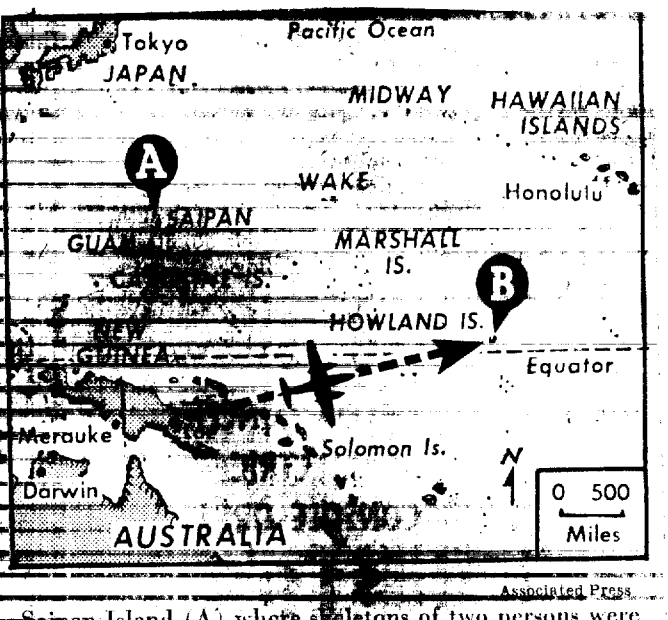
There was no indication, at the time of the disappearance nor in the years immediately following, to believe that the flight ended anywhere except in the vicinity of Howland Island, 2,500 miles from Saipan and on a widely different course from Lae.

Mr. Noonan was [illegible] navigator and he believed they were in the Howland area 20 forty-six minutes before their last message Miss Earhart told the Coast Guard cutter Itasca, standing by at Howland. "We are circling but cannot hear you." Mr. Noonan had estimated previously they were within 100 miles of Howland.

Cmdr. W. K. Thompson of the Itasca said: "At the end Miss Earhart talked so rapidly as to be almost incoherent." He said the plane's radio was loudest when it sent the "circling" message and he believed it was closest to Howland at that time.

Unconfirmed rumors have arisen from time to time that Miss Earhart and Mr. Noonan were on some sort of pre-war spy mission over Japanese-mandated territory. This theory would account for Mr. Noonan's reported "execution" by the Japanese. The Japanese government has denied any knowledge of the pair.

Mr. Goerner said Cmdr. Paul W. Bridwell, present U. S. commander on Saipan, said he had information that Miss Earhart may have gone down near Jaliet Island in the Marshalls, farther east and closer to Howland.



Associated Press

Saipan Island (A) where skeletons of two persons were found. They may be those of Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, lost on 1937 flight from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island (B).

Herald Tribune—UPI

Amelia Earhart

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